

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 1999-324-C - ORDER NO. 1999-526  
JULY 30, 1999

IN RE: Request of Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ) ORDER GRANTING ✓  
for Revisions to its General Customer ) DETARIFFING OF  
Services Tariff to De-Tariff Centrex Service ) CENTREX SERVICE  
(Tariff No. 1999-259). )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Horry or the Coop.) to detariff its Centrex service. The matter was noticed, and no Petitions to Intervene or Protests have been received. Horry has now filed a Motion for Expedited Review, with verified testimony.

This proposal is governed by S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-230 (B) (Supp. 1998). This section states that Centrex services may be detariffed if the Commission finds, after hearing, that such services are subject to competition in the relevant product and geographic markets. We retain regulatory authority over rates, revenues, investments, expenses, and quality of service.

Since no opposition was received to the proposal, we grant the Motion for Expedited Review, and hold that the hearing required shall be our consideration of the verified testimony in our regular weekly agenda session.

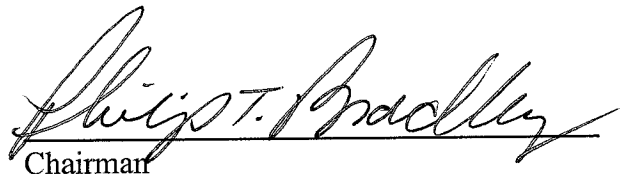
Horry filed the verified testimony of Bill Rabon, Business Interconnection Manager for the Coop. According to Rabon, Horry's Centrex services are subject to

competition in Horry's service area. Rabon further states that Horry County is a high-growth community currently supporting in excess of a dozen telephone equipment vendors who provide "centrex-type" services through the sale and distribution of customer premises telephone equipment. The sale and distribution of such equipment is not regulated by the Commission, and providers have pricing flexibility that enables them to be competitive. Horry requests similar pricing flexibility, through detariffing, for its Centrex service, in order to compete on a level playing field with these providers.

Pursuant to the testimony of Rabon, we find that Horry's Centrex services are subject to competition in Horry's service area. Therefore, for good cause shown, we hereby grant the detariffing of Horry's Centrex service. As per the statute, we retain our authority over rates, revenues, investments, expenses, and quality of service.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)